

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
September 27, 2006, 4:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers**

**PRESENT**

Ian Kohen  
Greg Lewis  
Tony McClendon  
Wes Roy  
Akua Ofori-Boateng  
Gil Palmer  
John Roberts

**ABSENT**

Jay Myers  
Marie Schroeder  
Jason Staley  
John Stroh

**\*\*\* Meeting Called to Order \*\*\***

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Director Arlette Tinsley, Deputy Director Lorraine Smith and Secretary Lula Young.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Secretary Roberts called roll. **Commissioner Kohen moved to accept the August Minutes, Commissioner Lewis seconded. Motion carried.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Commissioner Lewis reported no activity. The balance remains at \$5,015.74.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Director Tinsley informed Commissioners of staff involvement with several community groups. At the invitation of the former director of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission, Sandra Leek, Director Tinsley facilitated a workshop on Protecting & Serving a Diverse Community with representatives from Cass and Randolph counties. The workshop was held as part of the Indiana Associations of Cities and Towns (I.A.C.T.), 2006 Conference. Communities all across the state were very interested in the Heritage Fund's Welcoming Community Project and the countywide Anti-Bullying programs. Director Tinsley informed Commissioners of the Mayor's ongoing community meetings.

**OPEN FORUM/CURRENT EVENTS & COMMUNITY CONCERNS:**

**I.U.P.U.C. Race Equality and Inclusive Communities Panel Discussion:**

Commissioner Roberts extended his apology for being unable to attend the panel discussion.

Commissioner Ofori-Boateng advised she thought the discussion went well with the successful young men on the panel. As each participant primarily credited their individual success to family support, Commissioner Ofori-Boateng advised that she would also like to hear the perspective of those young men within the community who have not been as successful.

Chairperson Palmer advised that he felt the discussion regarding challenges faced by the panel members, our leaders of tomorrow, was well done. He stated he was embarrassed to note that the same challenges from a previous generation still exist. The Chairperson also stressed how critical it is for the community to participate and take an interest in our own schools and in the people who are made to feel 'less than equal' to others in our own town and to avail ourselves of the opportunity to make changes. Discussion ensued.

### **Immigrant Issues Forum**

Commissioner McClendon reported that the meeting was well attended and facilitated as an open forum to air concerns and issues confronting the growing Hispanic and Latino populations in Columbus. Additional discussion continued around setting a future date to again sit, discuss and formulate ways to address problems and concerns the growing immigrant community has. Commissioner McClendon complimented Officer Brian Wilder on his responsive participation.

### **FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:**

#### **Report and Recommendation from the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee:**

Commissioner Kohen reported that the Ad Hoc subcommittee had met several times and on September 11, 2006 unanimously voted to move forward with a recommendation to the full commission to change the Rules and Regulations for the Human Rights Commission to vote on.

Commissioner Kohen presented the Ad Hoc Committee's unanimous recommendation to create a voluntary mediation process, identical to the Bloomington process with the power to voluntarily mediate Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Age discrimination cases.

Director Tinsley also informed Commissioners that over one hundred letters had been received in support of the change to the Rules and Regulations including one letter and two public comments at the sub-committee meeting in favor of going forward and asking the mayor and city council to change the ordinance. The Director noted for the record that many of the letters that supported a rules and regulations change also supported an ordinance change if that were politically feasible at this time or in the future.

Director Tinsley provided Commissioners an overview of the required procedures and an explanation of their options to accept or reject the committee recommendation by motion, not make a motion at all or, by motion, do something different. Commissioners were also advised of their rule-making authority as a Board.

**Commissioner Lewis moved to accept the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee to amend the Rules and Regulations. Commissioner Roy seconded. Motion unanimously approved by Commissioners.**

**LIAISON UPDATES – MULTI-CULTURAL AWARENESS COMMITTEE:**

Commissioner Roy provided a report on the Columbus Cultural Connections website that included a list of obsolete links and suggestions in addition to the recommendations from Officer Brian Wilder, who does website design for CPD.

Commissioner Lewis questioned the potential of using the website update process as a Senior Project. Discussion ensued including expense, software and volunteer recruitment. By consensus, Commissioners authorized Commissioner Roy to make necessary decisions regarding updates and maintenance of the Columbus Cultural Connections website within the parameters of the budget.

**ANNUAL DINNER/KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**

Director Tinsley distributed information on potential keynote speakers that included biographies and contact information for Juan Williams and several other persons of interest.

Commissioner Kohen recommended head coach Kelvin Sampson of the I. U. Basketball team as a very dynamic and inspiring speaker that he recently heard.

**Commissioner Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner McClendon seconded. Meeting adjourned.**